



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
UNIT 92940, APO AE 09324-2940

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZN-BB-CO

1 October 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 1st Armored Division, Baghdad, Iraq

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Resignation for Good of the Service (ILT

(b)(6) - 5

1. I have reviewed the enclosed Resignation for the Good of the Service (RFGOS) in lieu of General Court-Martial, submitted by ILT [REDACTED] HHC, 1-13 AR, the recommendations of his battalion commander and supervisors, the letter from his father, and his recent evaluation. After careful consideration, I recommend that the RFGOS be approved, and ILT [REDACTED] service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions).
2. First Lieutenant [REDACTED] committed an egregious lapse in judgment, both in a professional and moral sense. He violated the trust of his superiors and set a bad example for his subordinates. Clearly, he should be separated from the Army - he has lost my confidence in his ability to lead soldiers in combat. However, his characterization of service should encompass his previous outstanding behavior and duty performance, as well as extenuating circumstances I believe were partially responsible for the misconduct.
3. From the moment he arrived in September 2002, ILT [REDACTED] abilities as a Tank Platoon Leader surpassed the majority of his peers. He qualified Tank Table VIII on his first run. He was a "Hero of the Battle" at the National Training Center. He successfully deployed his unit to the CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He leads from the front; he is aggressive, resourceful, eager, and his potential is unequalled. As reflected in the letter from his father, the comments of his superiors, and his recent evaluation, ILT [REDACTED] has proudly and capably served his country.
4. I considered the nature of ILT [REDACTED] offenses various serious. However, they did not involve death or injury and there is no evidence he caused any physical harm. While in no way a legal justification, defense, or excuse for his misconduct, extenuating circumstances leading up to his misconduct should be considered in determining a disposition in this case.
 - a. First, ILT [REDACTED] and his fellow soldiers experienced a tremendous amount of frustration and helplessness at the repeated and pervasive looting in their area of responsibility. I do not believe his misconduct was predicated on some sort of demented thinking, but rather was an overly aggressive reaction to events without appropriate approval and supervision.
 - b. Second, there was a breakdown by ILT [REDACTED] senior leadership. As an aggressive young officer who took things personally and passionately, his superiors should have given him

~~00726~~

008157

AFZN-BB-CO

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Resignation for Good of the Service (1LT. [REDACTED])

(b) 6-5

much more supervision and mentoring. His company commander gave him too free a rein. He was independently responsible for a stressful and dangerous mission, with very little oversight. He was a young officer with great raw potential, but given his known aggressive nature, he needed to be kept within clearly delineated boundaries. His leadership let 1LT [REDACTED] down. As a result, we will most likely lose a young officer with great potential.

5. By resigning his commission, 1LT [REDACTED] will be punished by his own actions. He has humiliated himself, his chain of command, and his family. He will not go home proud or with pride and honor deserved. Instead, he will go home in disgrace with neither award nor sense of accomplishment. This is something he will carry with him for the rest of his life. I do not see a requirement to tarnish his record for life with a federal conviction and dismissal at a General Court-Martial. Nor do I believe he should be tarnished for life with the stigma of an Other Than Honorable Conditions label. He still has tremendous potential in society, although not as an Army officer.

6. I recommend 1LT [REDACTED] be eliminated from the Army as expeditiously as possible. He does not deserve an honorable discharge, given the nature of his misconduct. However, the totality of his service warrants a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization.

7. Point of contact is the undersigned.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COL, AR
Commanding

5 Enclosures

1. RFGOS
2. BN CDR Recommendation
3. BN S3 (Supervisor) Recommendation
4. Letter from Father, 26 Sep 03
5. [REDACTED] OER, 2 Jul 03